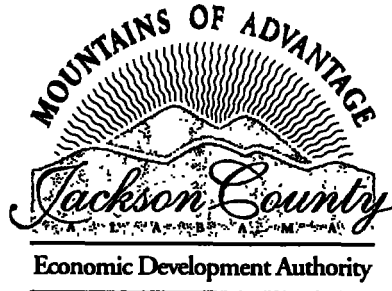


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Board of Directors  
Bunn Lovelady  
Tommy Harding  
Rudder Williams  
James V. Hastings  
Stacy Ledwell  
Jim Green  
Dr. David Campbell



Goodrich A. Rogers  
President/CEO

Shelia Shepard  
Vice President

April 14, 2011

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III, Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW, Suite 1220  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Elliot:

We are writing to express Jackson County, Alabama's support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our state/region, but across the nation. We are fortunate in our area to have two class one railroads (CSX & Norfolk Southern) and also a short line (Sequatchie Valley RR) that operate in our county with numerous spurs supporting thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of private investment.

We understand that this industry is capital intensive with billions invested in basic infrastructure. We understand the potential that our rail system has to reduce highway congestion.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of this horrible recession, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service.

We at the Jackson County Economic Development Authority support a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry, supports job growth and continued economic recovery.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

I appreciate your consideration for our concerns and hope the Board will continue to promote a healthy rail system that provides substantial economic development for our nation.

Sincerely,

Goodrich A. Rogers  
President & CEO